

Transportation Glossary

AAR – The Association of American Railroads

AASHTO – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

abandonment – decision of a carrier to discontinue service over a route (Surface Transportation Board permission is required)

accessorial service – service rendered by a carrier, other than a transportation service, such as warehousing service

ADT – Average Daily Traffic

air cargo – Freight, mail, and express packages transported by air

AMTRAK – the nation's rail passenger service

back haul – to bring a shipment back over part of the route it has already traveled or the return movement of a vehicle from its destination to its origin

barges – four types

- open hopper – a barge with an open cargo area used to carry materials like coal, crushed rock, scrap metal or any material that does not need to be protected from the weather
- covered hopper – a barge like an open hopper except with a watertight cover to protect the cargo in the hold from the weather, commonly used to carry commodities such as grains and dry chemicals
- deck – a barge with no cargo hold, but with a heavily plated, well supported deck to which cargo is tied, commonly used to move machinery, construction materials, or heavy equipment
- tank – a barge used to transport liquids like petroleum products and liquid chemicals

barge fleeting area – temporary mooring area used to make up multi-barge tows

benefit/cost ratio – an analytical tool used in transportation planning. A ratio of total measurable benefits to capital cost

bill of lading – a contract document between carrier and shipper

broker – an intermediary between the shipper and the carrier

breakbulk – the separation of a bulk load into smaller shipments

cargo – four types

- bulk cargo – basic commodities in an unpacked condition (grains, coals, or other materials that are voluminous and loose)
- general cargo – consists of large units (semi-manufactured or manufactured commodities) which are packaged (boxes, drums) or self packaged.
- neo-bulk cargo – consists of a limited number of commodities such as scrap metal, lumber, automobiles, or paper
- outside cargo – general cargo that is so heavy or large it cannot be accommodated or handled by normal means, and requires use of special loading and/or transportation equipment

cargo movements – three types

- online movements – cargo is transported by a single carrier
- single mode movements – cargo is transported by one or more carriers of a single mode
- intermodal movements – cargo is transported by two or more modes, involving the transfer of cargo between modes

circuitous route – indirect freight route

CL – carload or container load

Class I Railroad – railroad that provides national rail service

Class II Railroad – railroad that provides regional rail service (none in Arkansas)

Class III Railroad – railroad that provides local rail service

COFC - container on (rail) flatcar

consignee – party to whom articles are shipped

common carrier – for-hire carrier that serves the general public

consignor – party by whom articles are shipped

container terminal – area designated for the storage of containerized freight

contract carrier – for-hire carrier that serves shippers through contract arrangements

Customs duties – amount payable to the government on goods imported or exported

dead head – one leg of a freight movement on which the trailer or container is empty

distribution warehouse – a warehouse used to store finished goods and to assemble customer orders

double stack – stacking containers, frequently with different lengths, on top of each other on a rail car

drayage – hauling of freight by a motor carrier

exclusive use – carrier vehicles that are assigned to a specific shipper for its sole use

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration

Foreign Trade Zone – designated area where imported goods or products for export can be stored, displayed, sold, and/or manufactured without being subject to certain quota restrictions and some Customs formalities

FRA – Federal Railroad Administration

freight forwarder – a person engaged in consolidating small shipments of goods for transport as a single shipment

gateway – point where freight moving between territories is interchanged

interchange – transfer of cargo between carriers

interchange track – section of track where rail cars are exchanged between two or more railroads

intermodal transfer – transfer of commodities between two modes

intermodal transportation facility – freight exchange terminal that also provides warehousing and transfer loading

JIT (just-in-time) – inventory system used by manufacturers and distributors to minimize levels of inventories, for which reliable transportation is essential

LCL – shipments of less than rail carload volume

lead time – total time that elapses from placement of an order until the goods are received

line haul – movement of freight from one point to another

logistics channel – network of intermediaries engaged in transfer, storage, handling, and communication functions that contribute to the efficient flow of goods

LTL – less than truckload (shipment)

multimodal – moving cargo from origin to destination by more than one freight transportation mode

outsourcing – contracting with an outside firm for services (e.g., shipping, packaging, storage, billing and/or inventory control)

piggyback – shipment of truck trailers and containers on railroad flatcars; also called TOFC (trailer on flat car)

rail cars – seven types:

- box car – closed car used for hauling freight
- compartmentizer car – box car equipped with movable bulkheads which can be used to divide the car into separate compartments
- compartment tank car – tank car which has compartments or separate tanks in which different kinds or grades of liquids may be transported
- flat car – car without sides, top or ends, used for machinery, stone, etc.
- gondola – open top car having sides and ends
- hopper car – car with floor sloping to one or more hoppers through which contents may be unloaded by gravity
- tank car – car used for transporting bulk liquids

relay terminal – motor carrier terminal where a fresh driver is substituted for a driver who has driven the maximum hours permitted

seamless service – level of cooperation among intermodal carriers that makes the modal transfer smooth and effortless with no shipment delay

side tracks – rail tracks used for storage, loading or unloading which connect with other railroad tracks

spur tracks – rail tracks extending from and connected at only one end with another track

team track – rail tracks on which rail cars are placed for the use of the public in loading and unloading freight

TEU – Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit. A TEU is equivalent to a 20-foot container

through movement – shipment of a container inspected and sealed by Customs at the factory site and then transported without the need of further inspection until arrival at the destination

TL – truckload (shipment)

tramp loading site – loading site that allows for transfers of bulk commodities and containers between trucks and trains

TOFC – trailer on flatcar (also called piggyback service)

tow – barges and a towboat tied together, acting as a single vessel with the towboat as the power unit

transit time – total time that elapses from pickup to delivery of a shipment

unit trains – large shipments treated as a single unit (e.g., a multi-car train where all cars carry wood chips to a paper mill)